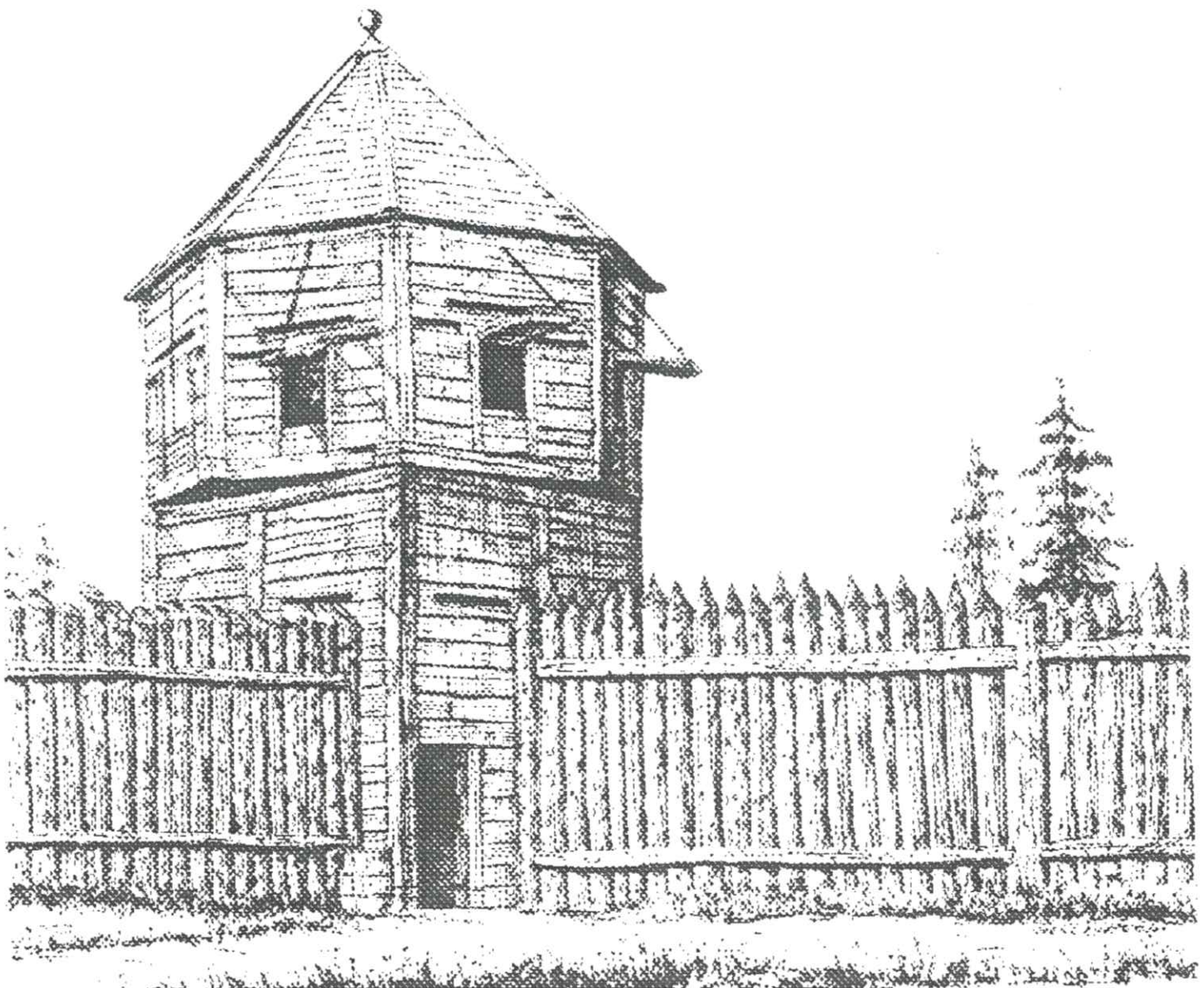




FORT VANCOUVER  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

# JUNIOR RANGER/ NORTHWEST EXPLORER PROGRAM



# We're glad you want to become a Junior Ranger!

The National Park Service takes care of over 360 very special places. Some are special because of their scenery, plants and animals, like the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone. Other sites are a part of people's history, like the Statue of Liberty or Fort Vancouver.

At National Parks, you might run into a Park Ranger. Rangers do different jobs. Some collect money and share with visitors how to best enjoy their park. Some are the Policemen of the park, and make sure the visitors and the site are safe. Some Rangers give programs for visitors. They help people find out why the park is so special.

By becoming a Junior Ranger, you will learn more about National Parks, and can share what you've learned with others. Help us spread the word about these interesting and beautiful places that belong to all of us!

## To become a Junior Ranger:

1. Watch "Fort Vancouver-The Inland Fur Trade" movie in the Visitor Center

**OR** take a tour with a guide at the fort. Check one.

I watched the movie \_\_\_\_\_ I took a tour of Fort Vancouver \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose three jobs in this booklet, read about them, and fill in the blanks. The answers for the Trapper and Chinook Native American are in the museum at the Visitor Center. The answers for the rest of the jobs are at the Fort.
3. Do two activities. (You can always do more!)
4. Show your finished booklet to a Ranger or Guide at the fort, or a person at the Visitor Center.



## To become a Northwest Explorer:

Fort Vancouver is only one piece of the story of settling the Oregon Country. To learn even more about our history and become a Northwest Explorer, visit two of the three following sites:

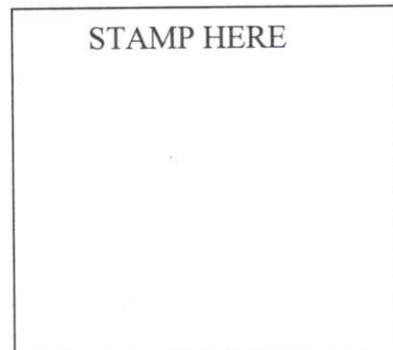
McLoughlin House  
713 Center  
Oregon City, OR  
(503) 656-5146

Champoeg State Heritage Area  
Off I-5, Exit #278  
5 miles west of Donald, OR  
(503) 678-1251 ext. 221

Fort Nisqually Historic Site  
5400 N. Pearl Street #11  
Tacoma, WA  
(253) 591-5339

At each site, and Fort Vancouver, complete the activities and have your booklet stamped by an employee. Show three stamped booklets at any of the sites and purchase a colorful Northwest Explorer patch.

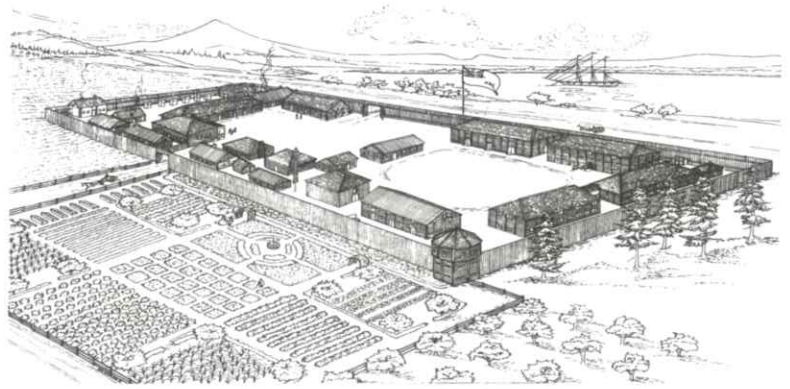
STAMP HERE





## Fort Vancouver was a very busy place!

The Hudson's Bay Company, a British fur trading company, came to North America over 300 years ago looking for animal furs. In the 1820's, they built this fort not as a place for soldiers, but as a place to gather furs to be shipped back to England. Each summer, bales from 24 smaller forts arrived stuffed with thousands of valuable furs to be cleaned and sent on a six month ship ride back to London. Ships from England arrived here, full of wool blankets, medicines, beads, gunpowder, tea, and other things these employees couldn't make for themselves, although they made much of their own stuff. From here, supplies were packaged and shipped up the Columbia River to hundreds of employees out in the wilderness as far away as Montana and Alaska.



In 1845, over 200 people worked at this fort alone, and with their families, there were over 400 people that lived in or around the fort. Each person had a job to do. **Trappers** caught animals out in the wilderness. **Chinook Native Americans** helped the company by bringing in furs and animals they hunted to trade in the Indian Trade Shop. **Laborers** (Workers) farmed, cut wood, packed furs and did other jobs. The **Chief Factor** was the boss. He made important decisions and made sure everyone else was doing their jobs. **Blacksmiths** made tools and other things from metal. **Bakers** baked sea biscuits and bread. **Carpenters** made furniture, doors, and other things from wood.

Which three jobs would you have like to have had at Fort Vancouver? Read about the three jobs and fill in the answers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Trapper (Answers are in Visitor Center Museum)

\_\_\_\_\_ Chinook Native American ( Answers in Visitor Center Museum)

\_\_\_\_\_ Laborer (Worker) (Answers on "The Village" sign just past the fee booth by the fort)

\_\_\_\_\_ Chief Factor (Answers to the last four are found inside the fort)

\_\_\_\_\_ Blacksmith

\_\_\_\_\_ Baker

\_\_\_\_\_ Carpenter



## IF YOU WERE A TRAPPER...

your job was to catch animals and skin them. The main animal you were after was the one in the case. What is this? \_\_\_\_\_ Hundreds of trappers worked for the company and caught thousands of animals. How many pelts (animal skins) were shipped from Fort Vancouver in 1843?

\_\_\_\_\_

In August, you and about 60 men would head out into the wilderness with your Native American wives and your kids. Much of your day, you would be up to your knees in ice water setting beaver traps.

When looking for beaver, you would be happy to see these little pointed stumps. What happened to these trees?

\_\_\_\_\_ Above the trap, you hung little bags of castoreum, which is beaver scent. After you

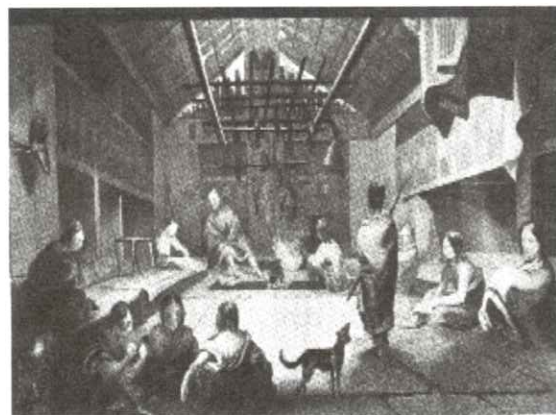
moved on to your next trap, a beaver would smell the scent, go over to check it out, and step on the trap, which would snap closed on its leg.

After you skinned the beaver, your wife or kids would sew the skin to a circle made of willow branch. They would scrape the back of the skin with a \_\_\_\_\_ to remove flesh and fat. After a fall, winter and spring of camping outside in rain and snow gathering furs, you brought them back to one of the Hudson's Bay Company forts. The furs were squished together in a fur press and made into bales. You loaded the fur bales into a boat and paddled with other men for days, bringing the furs to Fort Vancouver. When you arrived, you had a little time to relax and tell stories of surviving in the woods. In a few weeks, it was time to paddle back up the Columbia river and go back out trapping once again.

## IF YOU WERE A CHINOOK NATIVE AMERICAN...

your people have lived along the shores of the Columbia River from the coast to the Cascade mountains for ages. The land provided all that you needed. You caught salmon and sturgeon in the rivers. You gathered roots and berries from wild plants. From the trees, you got materials for clothes, baskets and houses. You also traded with other tribes to get things from other areas.

When the Hudson's Bay Company and other traders arrived, you found new people to trade with. Many Chinook women married Hudson's Bay employees. This helped create friendships between your tribe and the newcomers, and increased trade. Your tribe provided furs and salmon to Fort Vancouver, which were shipped to London and Hawaii. Sadly, most of your tribe died due to diseases brought in by these new people. Your way of life was changed forever.



What are three types of furs you might have brought in to trade? (Answers in museum at the Visitor Center)

\_\_\_\_\_

What are three trade goods you might have traded for at the fort?

\_\_\_\_\_





## IF YOU WERE A BLACKSMITH...

your job was to make things from metal. You started your day by building fires of coal in the forge (firebox). The coal and metal were shipped here from England. To change the shape of metal, you would have to get it very hot and then pound it into a shape, or smash it into a form. You had to watch out for flying pieces of metal and be careful not to get burned. You got coated with soot. What are two words that describe your job as a blacksmith?

Blacksmiths made many things. They made axes, tools for farming like plows and hoes, and metal things to build a building like nails, door hinges and handles. Over the years, they made around 10,000 of something that the trappers took out with them. Trappers spent most of their day setting these things. What were they?

If there is a blacksmith in the shop, watch him and think of a question to ask him.  
What was your question?

What was his answer?

## IF YOU WERE A LABORER (WORKER)...

(answers on the Kanaka Village sign past the fee booth at the fort)

you might have done one of many jobs. You might have worked planting and taking care of fruit trees, like the ones in front of you. You might have worked in huge fields, plowing with oxen and planting wheat, or in a big garden growing many types of vegetables for the managers to eat. You might have helped clean furs or even had guard duty around the fort. Many of the laborers from \_\_\_\_\_ worked cutting down (felling) trees.

Your home was in a little group of houses called \_\_\_\_\_. People who worked at the fort came from different places. Your neighbors might have been \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ people. From your neighborhood, on a clear day, you had a beautiful view of Mount \_\_\_\_\_. Look to the left. Is this snow-covered mountain out today?



Being a laborer was a hard life. You didn't make much money, and a lot of that you spent buying clothes, tools, and extra food in the company shop. You could build a house on your days off and live there, but the house belonged to the company. You were not allowed to make friends and spend time with the managers, who were better educated, made more money, and got to live in nicer housing inside the fort walls. But you had steady work and got to have the adventure of moving to this wild, beautiful part of the world.

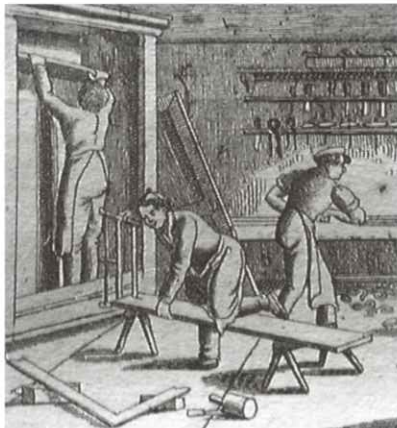
## IF YOU WERE A BAKER....

you would start your day by building fires in these brick ovens. It took a couple hours to heat the bricks. While you waited, you mixed up dough in big wooden boxes. Most of it was dough for \_\_\_\_\_, but you also made some bread dough. To make sea biscuits, you mixed up \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Flour came from wheat the workers grew outside the fence, or wheat grown by American settlers that the fort bought. Where did you get your water? (look out the front door). \_\_\_\_\_. Then you got your hands dirty. You worked the dough on the tables and then cut out biscuits.



When the ovens were hot, you scraped out all the wood and ashes, and then put the biscuits right on hot bricks. All day long you baked because you were not feeding only the people here at the fort. Every year, you mixed, rolled out and baked thousands and thousands of sea biscuits sent with sailors and trappers and out to other forts of this area.

Feel the biscuit on the sign very carefully. They were hard and you had to soak them into something like coffee tea or soup to eat them. But they also lasted for months and didn't rot-good food to have if you were on a ship for months, or out in the woods all winter trapping animals.



## IF YOU WERE A CARPENTER.....

you worked with four other carpenters and a few laborers to make things out of wood. Almost all the land around here was covered with huge trees that were hundreds of years old. The laborers cut the trees and took them to the company's saw mill where they were cut into boards. Then you took over.

Carpenters built the buildings of the fort. You used two things to hold pieces of wood together- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Hint-look at the floor and then at the ceiling beams)

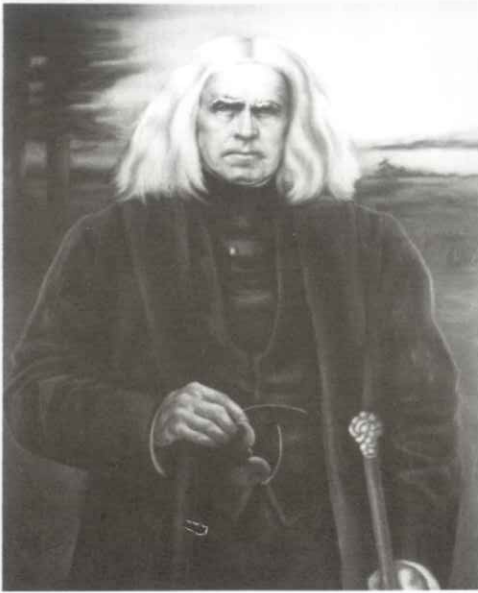
When the outside of the building was done, carpenters had to make the doors, the shingles to put on the roofs, and even the frames that held the pieces of window glass together!

Most people, except Dr. McLoughlin and Mr. Douglas, who was second in charge, couldn't afford fancy furniture that had to be shipped from England. You made simple tables, chairs and beds for the employees. You made ox yokes that held the oxen together so they could pull a plow or wagon. When someone died, you built their coffin too.

Carpenters used many metal tools to shape and cut the wood. Look around the shop. What are two tools they used? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

If there is a carpenter working, watch him for a minute. Think of a question to ask him. What was your question and what was his answer?





## IF YOU WERE THE CHIEF FACTOR, DR. JOHN MCLOUGHLIN....

you were in charge of this fort, and 24 others in the Pacific Northwest. Look in the second window to the left of the front door. This would be your office. Here you would write orders for people at your other forts, and letters back to England to your bosses. It was your job to make sure that the furs were shipped to England on time, and that hundreds of employees had supplies they needed-food, clothes, traps, weapons. You had to think a year ahead of time, because it took 6 months for the orders to get to England, and another 6 months for a ship to bring the things to Fort Vancouver.

There were no ballpoint pens back then. What did you use to write your orders?

How was your office lit at night?

Move down one more window to the left. Dr. McLoughlin had a very important job and was paid a total of around 1000 pounds a year. (Laborers were making 17 pounds a year-about \$85.) He could afford beautiful things that were made in England and brought here by ship. Look around his home. There is no computer, television or stereo. What do you think people might have done for fun after supper?

In the 1840's, Dr. McLoughlin had to make a very important decision. Both England and the United States wanted this land. American settlers had started to move out here. Most were walking for six months. Their wagons carried their supplies. Some had to dump most of their things to get over the mountains. Many were hungry, had little money left and needed help. Since Dr. McLoughlin worked for a British company, he was told not to help the Americans. The more American settlers living here, the better the chance this land would go to the United States. What would you do if you were Dr. McLoughlin?

Dr. McLoughlin decided to help the Americans anyway. He gave them seeds and tools to start their new lives. The settlers paid the company back with part of the crops they grew. Because he helped many people, Dr. McLoughlin became known as the Father of Oregon.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO FORT VANCOUVER?

In 1846, England and the United States signed the Oregon Treaty. This paper said the boundary for the United States would be right where it is today—above Washington State, Idaho, Montana, etc. That meant Fort Vancouver was inside the United States. Since this was a British fort, the Hudson's Bay Company decided to move most of the staff of Fort Vancouver to Fort Victoria, north of here in English territory on Vancouver Island. A few people stayed to trade with the Americans. They also rented a few of the fort buildings to the United States Army when the army arrived. By 1860, the last Hudson's Bay Company people moved out, and the army took over the fort. The buildings were in bad shape, so they tore most of them down. The ones that were left caught fire and burned in 1866. Fort Vancouver was gone.



Photo taken of Fort Vancouver in 1860.

Fort Vancouver had a big role in opening the Oregon Country. When people from the United States, Canada and other places saw how well crops could grow in the forts' gardens and orchards, and how rich the land was, they became interested in moving out here. Dr. McLoughlin helped these newcomers start their lives by giving them supplies on credit and buying their crops. Because Fort Vancouver is an important part of history, the National Park Service decided to rebuild it. When you bring your children, even more of the buildings will be here. The National Park Service takes care of the site, and provides people to tell the story of these Hudson's Bay employees who worked so hard at Fort Vancouver over 150 years ago.

## THERE ARE OTHER SITES WHERE YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OREGON COUNTRY.

At Champoege State Park, learn about 52 pioneers voting to create the first American government on the West Coast. The park's Visitor Center and museums help visitors find out about the local Kalapuya Indians, the fur trade in the Willamette Valley, and the first farms in the Northwest.

At Fort Nisqually Historic Site, learn about another Hudson's Bay Company post where they grew crops that fed their employees, and even Russians in Alaska and Hawaiians in the islands!

At the McLoughlin House, in Oregon City, find out what happened to Dr. McLoughlin after he left Fort Vancouver. Was he treated as well by the Americans as he treated them?



Visit at least two other of these sites, complete their activities, get your book stamped, and become a Northwest Explorer. Northwest Explorers are kids who know lots about our history and tell others about what they've learned. When you're done, you can purchase a colorful Northwest Explorer patch. Wear it with pride. You're on your way to becoming a history expert!



# FORT VANCOUVER BINGO

Walk through the fort and get Bingo by filling in three boxes in a row (up, down, or diagonally). When you see the thing mentioned, draw a picture of it in the box.

## **A woodpile**

Wood was used to cook, and in stoves to keep warm.

## **A Carpenter or Blacksmith tool**

## **Posts from the fence**

The fence (palisade) was built to keep out thieves, not attackers.

## **Hudson's Bay Company Flag**

This fort belonged to an English fur trading company.

## **The Bell**

A bell rang for the first time at 5:00 a.m. to wake everyone up, and then through the day to signal meal times and the end of the workday.

## **Weapon in the Bastion (tower)**

Fort Vancouver was never attacked. These weapons were fired to welcome ships arriving at the fort.

## **Something not from 1845**

The city of Vancouver grew up around the fort site.

## **A Sea Biscuit**

These were hard as a rock. They lasted for months without spoiling.

## **A Privy**

(Old fashioned bathroom)

# FORT VANCOUVER WORD SEARCH

Look horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward and backward to find the hidden words listed below.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | Y | V | O | Y | A | G | E | U | R |
| E | E | G | I | Q | U | W | R | A | D | B |
| R | T | A | R | K | S | U | M | X | A | R |
| O | P | R | B | E | O | B | T | T | I | E |
| T | J | D | H | I | L | L | E | D | S | V |
| S | J | E | K | A | S | A | L | M | B | A |
| R | O | N | N | Y | U | C | G | V | Z | E |
| U | D | K | I | X | E | K | U | X | G | B |
| F | E | O | S | N | R | S | W | I | O | C |
| T | R | D | E | E | R | M | R | H | T | F |
| Z | D | U | L | Y | I | I | F | J | M | H |
| U | G | C | N | O | I | T | S | A | B | L |
| M | E | R | A | N | O | H | U | R | T | B |



**BEAVER**  
**MUSKRAT**

**THE FUR MOST PRIZED BY THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.**  
**THE MOST COMMON FUR BROUGHT TO FORT VANCOUVER.**

**DEER**  
**CLERK**  
**VOYAGEUR**  
**BLACKSMITH**  
**BLANKET**  
**SEA BISCUIT**  
**BATEAUX**  
**FUR STORE**  
**BASTION**  
**GARDEN**

The hide was used to wrap the fur bales for protection.  
A gentleman that kept the written records of the company.  
A worker that trapped the beaver in the mountains.  
A tradesman that made tools out of iron and steel.  
A common item used to trade for fur. It was made out of wool.  
A flour and water cracker used to feed company employees.  
A flat-bottomed wooden boat used in the fur trade.  
One of the buildings used to store the furs at the fort.  
The building used to protect the fort from attack and fire salutes.  
The place where the vegetables and flowers were grown at the fort.



# TAKE A CLOSER LOOK....

The world beneath your feet holds secrets to what life was like here at Ft. Vancouver. It is the job of Archaeologists to dig into the ground of the fort site, to discover and preserve the objects left behind by people who lived and worked here. Since 1947, Archaeologists have discovered over 1 million objects. Some people who work at the fort have the job of taking care of these objects, called artifacts. Visit the Archaeology display in the Fur Store building and watch people working to preserve the past. Draw an artifact in the box below that you saw on your visit.

I saw this artifact on my visit to Ft. Vancouver.

Try your hand at archeology. Take a closer look at some of the artifacts that have been found here (below). Decide what they might have been used for (#1) and who might have used them (#2). You might also guess what part of the fort they may have been found near (#3).



1

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



2

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



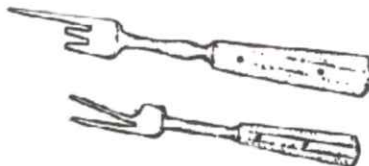
3

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



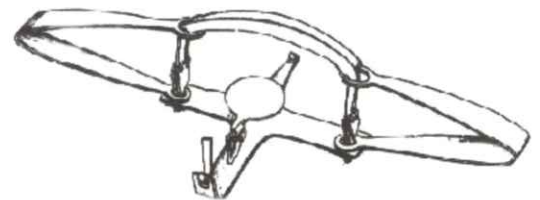
4

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



5

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



6

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_



## HOW TO BE A RANGER



Part of a Rangers' job is protecting the park and telling others about its' history. Check the boxes of things you can do, as a Junior Ranger, to protect the park and spread the word about Fort Vancouver.

☐ Pick the flowers

☐ Pick up litter

☐ Tell others about the park

☐ Carve on the stockade

☐ Eat & drink in the buildings

☐ Climb on the cannons

☐ Volunteer to help at the fort

☐ Stay out of roped off areas

☐ Read more about the fort

☐ Recycle brochures

Answers: Pick up litter, Tell others about the park, Volunteer, Stay out of roped off areas, Read more, Recycle

Another part of a Rangers' job is to know the answers to a lot of questions.  
As a Junior Ranger, can you answer these?

What are beaver pelts  
made into?



- a. Top hats
- b. Sneakers
- c. Yo-Yos

What do coopers do?  
(answer at Visitor Center)

- a. Make chicken coops
- b. Make barrels
- c. Make top hats

What are sea biscuits  
made of?

- a. Sugar and spice
- b. Flour and water
- c. Cheese and crackers

What sort of fort was  
Fort Vancouver?

- a. U.S. Military
- b. American fur trading fort
- c. British fur trading fort



Answers: a, b, b, c





# BE AN ARTIST



Go to your favorite place in the fort. Take a few minutes to listen, sniff the air, and look around you. Think about what makes this your favorite spot at the fort. Is it the building itself, the people inside, or just a place you really like? Now draw a picture of your favorite spot in the box. You could even include yourself in the picture!

List some of your discoveries below.

Two things I saw \_\_\_\_\_

Two things I heard \_\_\_\_\_

Two things I smelled \_\_\_\_\_

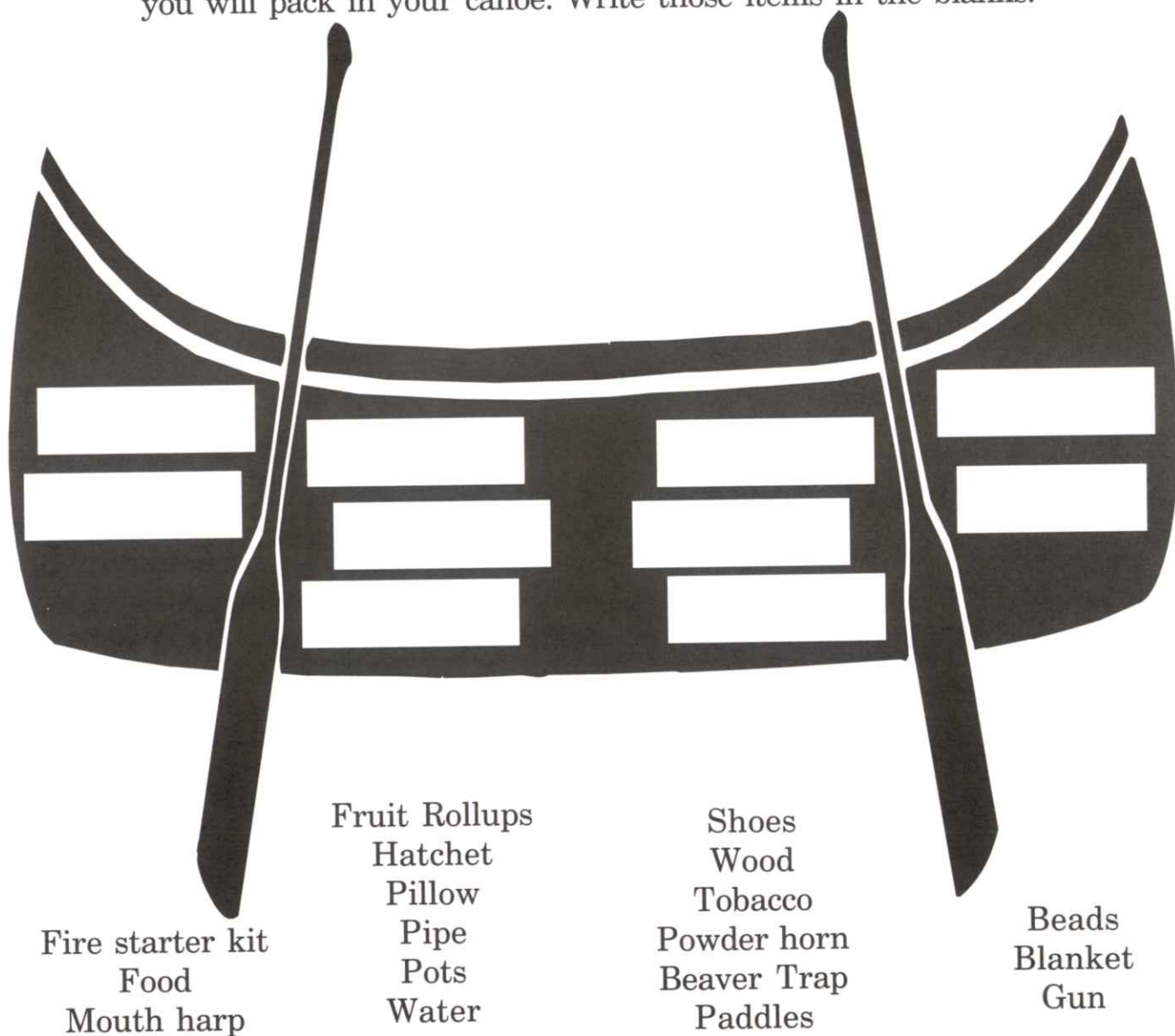
Two things I touched \_\_\_\_\_



## PACKING YOUR CANOE

You're a Voyageur leaving with a fur brigade. You will be gone for up to a year. You and your Native American wife and your kids will be camping the whole time. When traveling by water, you'll be paddling your canoe for 15 to

18 hours a day! When you come to rapids on the river, you will portage (carry) your canoe and all your supplies over land past the rapids. You will hunt and trap animals or trade with Native Americans for furs. While trapping beaver, you will work all day in very cold rivers and streams. Before you go, you have to pack your canoe. From the list below choose 10 items you will pack in your canoe. Write those items in the blanks.



Fire starter kit  
Food  
Mouth harp

Fruit Rollups  
Hatchet  
Pillow  
Pipe  
Pots  
Water

Shoes  
Wood  
Tobacco  
Powder horn  
Beaver Trap  
Paddles

Beads  
Blanket  
Gun

**Choose two of the most important items and tell a Ranger why you need them.**